

Appl. No.: 09/920,720
Reply to Office Action of: October 18, 2004

Remarks

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. The Examiner has indicated that the drawings are informal and acceptable for examination purposes only. Although the Examiner indicated that these drawings were filed on November 15, 2002, Applicant has assumed that the Examiner is referring to the original drawings filed with the application on August 2, 2001. Applicant's also understand that formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

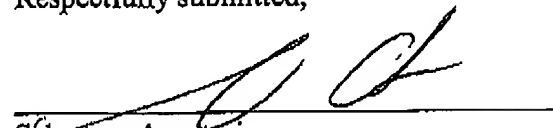
Claims 1-2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Grois, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,506,922). Claims 3 and 7-12 are objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 7-12. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 3 and is therefore in condition for allowance. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 2-12 depend from allowable claim 1 and therefore are also believed to be in condition for allowance. New claims 13-18 are modeled after allowable claims 7-12 and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of claims 1, 2, 4-12 and examination of claims 13-18 is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Considering the amendments and remarks presented here, Applicants respectfully submit that this application in condition for allowance and passage thereof to issue is respectfully requested. Please charge any additional requisite fees relating to this amendment and response to Deposit Account No. 50-1581.

Respectfully submitted,



Salvatore Anastasi
Registration No. 39,090
Attorney for Applicant
Phone: (610) 722-3899
Facsimile: (610) 889-3696